

while the rest is tossed in landfills, burned, or shipped to third world countries for environmentally toxic and often dangerous extraction methods.

A self-described “garbage man,” Mike Biddle set up a lab in his garage in Pittsburg, California nearly twenty years ago to begin experimenting with ways to sort and recycle complex plastics in an attempt to turn these landfills into what he calls “above ground mines.” Since then, Mr. Biddle has developed and patented a 30-step plastics recycling system that includes magnetically extracting metals, shredding plastics, sorting them by polymer type, and producing graded pellets to be reused. What is truly remarkable is that this process uses less than ten percent of the energy required to make plastic from oil while carrying little of the risk to the environment.

Mr. Biddle should be commended; his story illustrates the sort of progress that can be made towards an economically and environmentally responsible solution to plastics waste around the world.

However, his story is also illustrative of a greater problem here in the United States. While MBA Polymers remains headquartered in Richmond, California, the company's main processing facilities operate in China, Austria, and the United Kingdom, where their respective governments have implemented forward thinking electronics-waste recycling regulations that ensure a steady stream of complex plastics and materials for MBA Polymers to utilize.

While the United States produces more electronics and plastics waste per capita than any other country in the world, rather than take advantage of this resource, U.S. brokers ship nearly ninety-five percent of the plastics waste that is collected here overseas. In short, we are literally shipping jobs overseas because of our failure to implement a competing plastics recycling program in the U.S.

As we are paying to ship plastics to third-world countries with little labor protection and no environmental controls, many countries in Europe and Asia are reaping the benefits of reusing and recycling their waste products. Furthermore, in doing so, we are adding to our dependency on foreign oil by needlessly consuming petrochemicals to make plastics, while simultaneously adding to the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at a time when all nations should be focused on reducing their carbon footprint.

The United States cannot afford to continue to watch from the sidelines while foreign countries become more energy efficient, more economically competitive, and enhance their energy and natural resource security—all while creating good, sustainable jobs. A national policy of plastics and waste recycling in the U.S. is desperately needed. In doing so, we could create tens of thousands of new skilled green jobs, we could save a materials manufacturing base and millions of barrels of oil per year, and we could do it while better protecting our environment.

It is our responsibility to ensure that more entrepreneurs like Mike Biddle aren't forced to take their business to international competitors. Rather, it's time to bring these good, green jobs back to the U.S. with a broad policy to encourage recycling and green product development here at home.

Again, I applaud Mr. Biddle and his team at MBA Polymers for winning this important award, and I look forward to working with my

colleagues in Congress to help create an environment in which Mr. Biddle's successes can be realized here at home.

DR. MELINDA O'ROURKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Melinda O'Rourke for her outstanding service to our community.

Dr. O'Rourke is a community-minded business owner who has leveraged her success to reinvest in the community. She sits on the Red Rocks Community College Foundation Board of Directors and Northwest Eye and Essence Laser & Wellness which support 25 local charities.

Melinda gives her time and talent to provide the underserved in our communities the eye care they need. She has volunteered for numerous eye surgeries in Latin America with the Vision Health International (VHI) group whose mission is to provide vision care services and sight-restoring services free of charge. Also, Melinda donates her time to the Stout Street Clinic by performing pro bono ophthalmic and optometric care to the homeless.

I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend Dr. Melinda O'Rourke for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on November 15–16, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall Nos. 605–608. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 605: NO—On Ordering the Previous Question

Rollcall No. 607: NO—On Agreeing to the Resolution

Rollcall No. 608: YES—Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act

Rollcall No. 609: NO—Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL MORTON SALK

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sorrow today following the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Morton Salk of Wilmington, North Carolina. Mr. Salk served as a bombardier in World War II and was also a beloved member of our community, a devoted family man, and

a dear friend to many. Mr. Salk passed away on November 10, 2012, at the age of 93, and he will be dearly missed.

Mr. Salk grew up in Providence, Rhode Island, and dedicated a majority of his life to the service of his country. He served as a member of the 243rd Coastal Artillery, Narragansett Bay Harbor Defenses beginning on January 17, 1941. He trained as a gun commander of the 12" disappearing cannon and then was transferred to the Aviation Cadet Program and subsequently earned flight wings as a bombardier. He was soon advanced to a triple-rated bombardier, navigator, and radar operator.

On August 24, 1943, Mr. Salk volunteered to become part of a crew for a mission to bomb an airfield in Hankow, China. His plane was leading the mission's formation as these American airmen came under direct attack. A 20 mm shell crashed through the windshield of Mr. Salk's plane, fatally wounding the pilot and incapacitating the co-pilot. Although he was not a pilot, Mr. Salk pulled the pilot from his seat and proceeded to fly the plane for 15 minutes, saving at least eight U.S. Airmen.

Mr. Salk earned a number of honors for his heroic actions, including the Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross presented by General Chennault of the Flying Tigers for completing 57 missions. After the war, Mr. Salk continued his service as a flying officer with the United States Air Force for 25 years before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He then spent the next 26 years of his life working for the Defense Intelligence Agency, who sought out Mr. Salk for his extraordinary knowledge of aircraft intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Morton Salk was a fine patriot and I have the utmost respect for his bravery. Though a humble man, his efforts garnered him praise from the press, fellow citizens, and elected officials. His courage will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the life of Lieutenant Colonel Morton Salk.

MICHAEL LEMOV'S PEOPLE'S WARRIOR:  
THE LEGACY OF JOHN MOSS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, December 5 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the death of John Moss of California, one of the most important members to serve in this body in the last century. Moss's life and landmark achievements have recently been recounted in *People's Warrior* by Michael Lemov, who served as his chief counsel for eight years, and I want to direct colleagues' attention to this important book.

Moss's landmark achievements have endured, warranting the insightful accounts Lemov has given of their sometimes tortuous paths to passage: the Freedom of Information Act, legislation establishing the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Magnuson-Moss Act which rejuvenated the Federal Trade Commission.